IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A method for operating a portable computing device, the method comprising:

coupling a signal line accessible through an outlet of the portable computing device to a communication device;

detecting a signal on the signal line to determine whether the communication device is actively connected to a portable computing device; and

suspending execution of at least a portion of a program, the portion of the program reducing power consumption of the portable computing device.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein suspending execution of at least a portion of a program for reducing power consumption of the portable computing device includes suspending occurrence of a timeout feature, wherein the time-out feature significantly reduces power consumption of the portable computing device.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, including sending communications from the portable computing device using the communication device when the communication device is actively connected to the portable computing device.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein coupling a signal line includes extending the signal line to a pin element of a pin connector forming the outlet.

5. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein suspending execution of at least a portion of a program for reducing power consumption of the portable computing device includes selectively suspending the occurrence of the time-out feature when the communication device is actively coupled.

6. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein suspending execution of at least a portion of a program for reducing power consumption of the portable computing device includes disabling the time-out feature while the communication device is actively coupled.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the signal includes measuring a voltage level of the signal.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting a signal from the communication device includes coupling the portable computing device to the communication device using a pin connector, and wherein one pin in the pin connector extends into the signal line.

9. (original) The method of claim 2, including launching a program that is downloaded to the portable computing device through the communication device once the occurrence of the time-out feature is suspended.

10. (original) The method of claim 2, including launching a program once the occurrence of the time-out feature is suspended, the program providing a display selected from a group of

displays consisting of a world clock, a digital image stored from a digital camera device, and a display of real-time information provided by a data network.

Claims 11-29 cancelled.

30. (new) The method of claim 1, including determining a type of the communication device.

31. (new) The method of claim 30, including configuring software executable on the portable computing device based on the type of the communication device.

32. (new) The method of claim 31, wherein configuring software executable on the portable computing device based on the type of the communication device comprises determining whether the communication device supplies power to the portable computer device.

33. (new) The method of claim 32, wherein configuring software executable on the portable computing device based on the type of the communication device further comprises allowing execution of software according to the power required by the software and the power expected to be supplied by the communication device.

34. (new) The method of claim 32, wherein software executable on the portable computing device includes software to continuously illuminate a display of the portable computing device at a maximum illumination level.

35. (new) The method of claim 32, wherein software executable on the portable computing device includes software to continuously display a digital image on the display of the portable computing device at a maximum illumination level.

36. (new) A method for operating a portable computing device, comprising:

automatically determining whether an accessory device is communicatively coupled to the portable computing device;

automatically determining a type of accessory device communicatively device coupled to the portable computing device; and

based on the type of accessory device, executing at least one program.

37. (new) The method of claim 36, wherein the at least one program controls an intensity of light in a display of the portable computer device.

38. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein the at least one program that controls an intensity of light in a display of the portable computer device maintains a high intensity of light in the display.

39. (new) The method of claim 36, wherein determining a type of accessory device communicatively device coupled to the portable computing device comprises determining a level of power that is supplied by the accessory device to the portable computing device.

40. (new) The method of claim 36, wherein the at least one program executed includes a program that is determined to require a level of power that is available to the computing device from at least one of an internal power supply of the portable computing device and the accessory device.

41. (new) The method of claim 36, wherein the at least one program executed includes continuously displaying an electronic image on a display of the portable computer at a maximum illumination level.